# 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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## Issues to be considered by Main Committee I

## Working paper submitted by Nigeria

### Nuclear disarmament

1. The Conference notes that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has contributed immensely to the maintenance of international peace and security since its entry into force in 1970, in particular through its remarkable success in controlling the spread of nuclear weapons to the 182 non-nuclear-weapon States Parties. States Parties emphasize the importance of, and agree to remain fully committed to, the full and effective implementation of the Treaty in all its aspects.

2. The Conference notes with regret that weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, continue to pose the greatest danger to mankind and the survival of human civilization, more than 15 years after the end of Cold War. The need to implement nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures, therefore, continues to be a major challenge in the maintenance of international peace and security.

3. The Conference is deeply concerned about lack of progress by the nuclear-weapon States in fulfilling their obligations under Article VI towards achieving nuclear disarmament. The Conference further notes with grave concern that the NPT regime is being challenged as a result of the planned development of new types of nuclear weapon systems and the declared qualitative improvement in nuclear weapon technology as well as the emergence of new strategic doctrines that set out rationale for the use of these weapons. The Conference is further concerned that recent trends in nuclear-weapon States suggest an indication of resumption of nuclear arms race, and calls for a diminished role for nuclear weapons in security policies of the nuclear powers.

4. The Conference notes that the total number of nuclear weapons still in existence amounts to tens of thousands despite bilateral and unilateral reductions. The Conference believes that the process of bilateral efforts at nuclear disarmament can only be meaningful if it leads to complete nuclear disarmament and governed by the principles of verification, transparency, and irreversibility.

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5. The Conference is convinced that effective disarmament and arms control, particularly in the nuclear field, are essential for the prevention of nuclear war and the strengthening of international peace and security as well as for economic and social advancement. States Parties, therefore, agree that the most effective means of achieving nuclear disarmament should be the commencement of multilateral negotiations leading to an early conclusion of a convention prohibiting the development, production, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and on their total elimination. The Conference affirms that nuclear weapons are not necessary for national or international security.

6. The Conference considers that one of the greatest significance of NPT is its existence as the only legally binding international instrument that commits nuclear-weapon States to nuclear disarmament. Bearing this in mind, the Conference stresses the need for this Review Conference to build on the agreements and decisions reached at the 2000 Review Conference and the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. The Conference, therefore, fully endorses the consensus-based Final Document of 2000 Review Conference which continues to be recognized by the vast majority of the international community as a monumental achievement. The Conference underscores the need for nuclear-weapon States to fully implement the unequivocal undertaking made at that Review Conference to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, in particular, the 13 Practical Steps to advance systematically and progressively towards a nuclear-weapon-free world.

7. Lack of progress in the Conference on Disarmament on substantive issues before it over the past several years has reinforced a feeling of scepticism among non-nuclear-weapon States about the commitment of the nuclear-weapon States to nuclear disarmament. The Conference calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to agree on a work programme on substantive issues before it.

8. The Conference considers that a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT) could serve as both a disarmament and non-proliferation tool, thus embodying the very essence of NPT itself. In recognition of this fact, the Conference calls for the establishment of a subsidiary body in the Conference on Disarmament to begin negotiations on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices.

9. The Conference underlines the importance of achieving the universality of the Treaty, particularly by accession to it as non-nuclear-weapon States and at the earliest possible date, of those States possessing nuclear weapons that still remain outside the Treaty. The Conference calls upon these States to place their nuclear facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards. The Conference also affirms that compliance by States Parties with their obligations under the Treaty may have a positive effect at universal acceptance of the Treaty in encouraging those States outside NPT to accede to it.

10. The Conference underlines the importance of total elimination of nuclear testing, and regrets that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) has not entered into force in spite of its popularity as demonstrated by its signature by 175 States and ratification by 120 States. To this end, the Conference reiterates its strong support for CTBT which, it believes, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. The Conference calls upon all States, in particular the

remaining 11 of the 44 States listed in Annex II to the Treaty that have not yet ratified it to do so as soon as possible so that it can enter into force without further delay. Pending its entry into force, States Parties agree that the existing moratorium on nuclear-weapon test explosions be maintained. The Conference affirms that observance of the existing moratorium on nuclear testing should not substitute for a comprehensive ban on nuclear-weapon testing.

**Security assurances**

11. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, States Parties agree on the need for the establishment of a legally binding international instrument under which the nuclear-weapon States will undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States. The International Court of Justice had reinforced this principle in 1996 in its advisory opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. By agreeing to the codification of these assurances in a binding international document, Member States will be establishing a vital confidence-building measure that could contribute in reducing the possibility of any propensity for acquisition of nuclear weapons by non-nuclear-weapon States. The Conference reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.